

4-H International Exchange Program seeks host families

Blue Mountain Eagle

The States' 4-H International Exchange program is seeking local couples and families to host high school students from foreign countries.

Alexandria Maurer of John Day, the local program coordinator, working through the Grant County OSU Extension office, said she and her husband have enjoyed hosting students over the years.

"I hope other families take the opportunity," she said.

Maurer said families and couples can choose a student who matches their background. She also noted the students are known for being high achievers, good students and also have a background of volunteering.

"Students are here for a life experience, not tourism, and they truly enjoy just becoming part of your family," Maurer said.

Students in a four-week summer exchange program come from Japan, South Korea, Norway and Finland. In this program families should have children of similar age to the visiting students.

For the academic year program, students come from Japan, South Korea and Mexico. The FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange Program) program, also for the academic year, includes students from 20 Eastern European countries such as Armenia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Poland and Ukraine. The FLEX program is a highly competitive program run by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs.

There are also outbound programs for U.S. students to experience life in a foreign country.

States' 4-H International Exchange Programs, headquartered in Seattle, Washington, began in 1971 and is a nationally certified program recognized by the State Department. They utilize a network of extension professionals and volunteers who help facilitate cultural immersion experiences for



Contributed photo
Alexandria Maurer, left, traveled to Nagoya, Japan, for a personal trip to visit chaperones she formerly hosted. In the photo, taken in September of 2010, she shares jelly beans with Japanese students.



Contributed photo
Enjoying a boat ride in Seattle are, from left, Manao Kanazawa and the Maurer family, including Freidrick (in baby carrier), Alexandria Maurer, Evangeline (in mom's arms), Vincent and Orean (held by his dad).



Contributed photo
Attending a movie in Canyon City are, from left, Anastasia (a Ukrainian student hosted by Sam Palmer and his wife), Evangeline Maurer, Manao Kanazawa (hosted by Vincent and Alexandria Maurer) and Orean Maurer.

4-H-aged youth and adult chaperones.

Maurer said the deadline to apply is in late July.

For more information, contact Carol Waggoner or Shanna Northway at the local extension office at 541-575-1911 or visit the exchange program's website at <https://www.states4hexchange.org>.



Contributed photo
From left, Monument eighth-graders Tell Cox, Nic Ciochetti, Gabe Sweek, Aubreianna Osborne and Jordan Hull enjoy a June 3-6 field trip to Newport.

Monument students enjoy 'whale' of a journey Eighth-graders explore coast, view gray whales

Blue Mountain Eagle

Five Monument School eighth-graders enjoyed exploring tide pools, viewing whales and visiting the Oregon Coast Aquarium on their June 3-6 field trip to Newport.

Michele Engle, the middle school adviser who chaperoned the students, said a highlight from the trip was taking a Marine Discovery boat tour.

They caught crabs in the bay and went a short distance on the ocean and while turning around saw a group of gray whales.

"It was so amazing to be that close to the whales," Engle said.

She said the students also enjoyed flying kites on the beach, viewing tide pools at Yaquina Head and visiting the Hatfield Marine Science Center where they took an estuary class.

"The kids work hard to pay for the trip," Engle said. "We count a lot of cans."



Contributed photo
From left, Gabe Sweek, Tell Cox, Nic Ciochetti, Jordan Hull, Michele Engle, Aubreianna Osborne and Mike Osborne ride on a Marine Discovery tour boat in Newport during their field trip to the coast.

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Bring your old documents for safe and secure disposal to Old West FCU for our **FREE** Community Shred Day!!

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Branch	Date	Time
Hermiston	Thursday June 28th	9am - Noon
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John Day	Friday June 29th	10:00am-2:00pm
Baker City	Friday June 29th	1:00pm- 4:00pm
La Grande	Friday June 29th	Noon - 3:30pm
Burns	Monday July 2nd	Noon - 3:30pm

SHRED IT and FORGET IT!

Blue Mountain Eagle
Early Deadline
For July 4th Edition
Ad, Classified & Legal Deadline
Thursday, June 28th by 5p.m.

Office will be Closed July 4th

Blue Mountain EAGLE
 Grant County's newspaper since 1868
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NO MATTER HOW BIG OR SMALL YOUR TROPHY WAS
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Your photos will be published in this year's **EAGLE HUNTING JOURNAL**
 Please have them to the Eagle by August 11th.